GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2725
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
ARREST OF INDIANS BY KUWAITI GOVERNMENT
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kuwait has arrested more than 200 people of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government of India has taken up the matter with the government of Kuwait; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes.

(b) The Kuwaiti police authorities, in the course of raids conducted by them at several places in Kuwait during 11-13 September 2007, detained over 200 Indian nationals, apart from nationals from other countries. According to the local laws, a domestic worker (under Visa No. 20) is not supposed to work or stay outside the house of his sponsor. The detained Indian nationals were in Kuwait as domestic workers under Visa No. 20, and they were detained when they were found staying/working outside their sponsor's residence.

(c) Yes. The Embassy of India in Kuwait took up the matter with the Kuwaiti Government authorities at various levels both in writing and verbally. The Embassy was informed that the raids were a part of the Kuwaiti Government's drive against violators of residency laws of the country.

(d) All the detained Indian nationals have since been deported to India in batches. Their deportation was completed by the end of October 2007.